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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,092	08/03/2001	Chi-Che Tsai	JCLA6561	8710
23900	7590	06/27/2006	EXAMINER	
J C PATENTS, INC.			SORRELL, ERON J	
4 VENTURE, SUITE 250				
IRVINE, CA 92618			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,092

Applicant(s)

TSAI, CHI-CHE

Examiner

Eron J. Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>20060215</u> . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/5/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christiansen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,302 hereinafter "Christiansen") in view of Arramreddy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,904 hereinafter "Arramreddy").

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4. Referring to claim 1, Christiansen teaches a method of bus priority arbitration used in a bus system that comprises a bus and a plurality of masters connected to the bus, wherein each master can output a request for a grant to use the bus, the method comprising:

sequentially responding to the request of each master according to a predefined orderly rotation (see lines 34-56 of column 5);

stopping a response to the requests of the masters according to the predefined orderly to service a higher priority transfer (see lines 27-37 of column 6);

performing the higher priority data transfer using the bus (see lines 27-37 of column 6); and

resuming a response to the requests of the masters according to the predefined orderly rotation (see lines 38-49 of column 6).

Christiansen fails to teach that the masters are considered as a group; the predefined orderly rotation is stopped when data for any of the masters is ready; and attributing highest priority to the master, which the data is ready for the grant to use the bus.

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Arramreddy teaches, in an data driven arbitration system, the above limitations (see lines 4-19 of lines 4).

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method of Christiansen with the above teachings of Arramreddy. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to maximize the utilization of the PCI bandwidth and throughput as suggested by Arramreddy (see lines 47-53 of column 6).

5. Referring to claim 2, Christiansen teaches the bus is a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus (see item labeled 12 in figure 1).

6. Referring to claim 3, Christiansen fails to teach the steps of responding to the requests of the masters and attributing the highest priority to the master are performed by a host bridge.

Christiansen, however does teach a host bridge (see item 16 in figure 1) and further teaches the arbitration logic can be included within any module in the system (see lines 17-33 of column 5).

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Arramreddy teaches in an analogous system, the arbitration logic, located within the host bridge (see lines 37-46 of column 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method of Christiansen with the above teachings of Arramreddy. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification because Christiansen teaches the arbitration logic can be within any module in the system and Arramreddy teaches that arbitration logic is conventionally located within a host bridge (see lines 37-46 of column 6).

7. Referring to claim 4, Christiansen teaches stopping the response to the requests of the masters is carried out by outputting a stop signal (see lines 27-37 of column 67 note the "ARBcrit" signal is a stop signal).

8. Referring to claim 5, Christiansen teaches the step of resuming the response to the requests of the masters according to the predefined orderly rotation is performed from the master which request evaluation has been stopped (see lines 46-59 of column 7).

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9. Referring to claim 6, Christiansen teaches the steps of resuming the response to the requests of the masters according to the predefined orderly rotation is performed from the master which data transfer has been performed (see lines 46-59 of column 7).

10. Referring to claim 7, Christiansen teaches a peripheral device interconnect structure comprising:

- a bus (see item 12 in figure 1);

- a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the bus, the peripheral devices are considered as a group, each of the peripheral devices embedding a master (see items 24 and 26 in figure 1 and lines 34-45 of column 4);

- a host bridge connected to the bus (see item 16 in figure 1); and

- arbitration logic operable to:

- respond to a plurality of requests from each of the masters according to a predefined orderly rotation (see lines 34-56 of column 5);

- stop responding to the requests from each of the masters according to the predefined orderly rotation when a higher priority transfer is ready (see lines 27-37 of column 6).

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Christiansen fails to teach receiving information indicating that a data transfer for any one of the master is ready; the predefined orderly rotation is stopped when data for any of the masters is ready; and attributing highest priority to the master, which the data is ready for the grant to use the bus and that the arbitration logic is within the host bridge connected to the bus, however Christiansen does teach the arbitration logic can be included within any module in the system (see lines 17-33 of column 5).

Arramreddy teaches in an analogous system, receiving information indicating that a data transfer for any one of the master is ready and attributing highest priority to the master, which the data is ready for the grant to use (see lines 4-19 of lines 4) and that the bus the arbitration logic, located within the host bridge (see lines 37-46 of column 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method of Christiansen with the above teachings of Arramreddy. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification because Christiansen teaches the arbitration logic can be within any module in the system and Arramreddy teaches that arbitration

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logic is conventionally located within a host bridge (see lines 37-46 of column 3).

11. Referring to claim 8, Arramreddy teaches the host bridge is connected to a data storage device from which the host bridge receives information indicating that a data transfer is ready (see paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Christiansen with the above teachings Arramreddy for the same reasons as mentioned above.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J. Sorrell whose telephone number is 571 272-4160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EJS
June 20, 2006


KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
6/22/06